

Message Text

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EXDIS

PERSONAL EYES ONLY FOR HARTMAN FROM HILLENBRAND

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MPOL, GW
SUBJECT: PERMANENT STATIONING PLAN FOR A US BRIGADE IN
NORTHAG

REFS: STATE 222193; BONN 15185

1. I APPRECIATED RECEIVING YOUR CABLE BEFORE I SAW AL
HAIG AT CASTEAUX. AS WE BOTH SUSPECTED, HE IS INDEED
AHEAD OF DOD AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN HIS THINKING ON
THE BRIGADE 76 STATIONING QUESTION AND SOME OF THE
PROBLEMS WHICH ACCOMPANY IT.

2. AS YOU MAY BE AWARE AND AS HAIG STRESSED, SENDING
BRIGADE 76 TO NORTHAG IS PART OF A LARGER DEPLOYMENT PRO-
POSAL WHICH WOULD INVOLVE THE STATIONING OF AN EXTRA US
CORPS IN NORTHAG BY M DAY PLUS 30. THIS APPARENTLY STEMS
FROM HIS BELIEF (A LA BROOKINGS) THAT US FORCES ARE CON-
CENTRATED IN THE WRONG PLACE TO MEET THE MOST LIKELY
THREAT.

3. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, USAREUR GEN. BLANCHARD DOES NOT
NECESSARILY OPPOSE STATIONING OF BRIGADE 76 IN NORTHAG,

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ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME OPPOSITION IN HIS HEAD-

QUARTERS. HE DOES, HOWEVER, STRONGLY OPPOSE THE DIVERSION OF ANY CURRENT OFFSET FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE. THERE ARE OFFSET FUNDS THAT HAVE BEEN OBLIGATED FOR THE BAR-RACKS PROGRAM BUT NOT YET DISBURSED; HOWEVER, HOW MUCH MIGHT CONCEIVABLY BE MADE AVAILABLE IS UNCLEAR.

4. WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE, NONETHELESS, THAT IT IS GOING TO BE VERY DIFFICULT WITHOUT OFFSET OR OTHER FUNDS TO COVER THE ONE-TIME COSTS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE PERMANENT STATIONING FACILITIES FOR BRIGADE 76 IN NORTHAG; THESE AMOUNT ROUGHLY TO SOME DM 320 MILLION. THERE IS NO MONEY FOR THAT PURPOSE IN THE FRG'S DEFENSE MINISTRY BUDGET. NOR IS THERE MUCH OF GETTING IT ADDED TO THAT BUDGET IN THESE DAYS OF FRG ACROSS-THE-BOARD FINANCIAL BELT-TIGHTENING UNLESS THE FRG SEES IT AS A HIGH-PRIORITY ITEM.

5. THE FRG APPARENTLY OPPOSES USING NATO INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS FOR MORE THAN A FRACTION OF THE TOTAL SUM INVOLVED SINCE NATO INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS IN THEIR ENTIRETY ARE ONLY A LITTLE LARGER THAN THE INITIAL STATIONING COSTS FOR THE BRIGADE. OUR OTHER NATO ALLIES WOULD PRESUMABLY FEEL AT LEAST AS STRONGLY ON THE SUBJECT.

6. AFTER DISCUSSING SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS WITH AL HAIG, I SAID THAT IT WAS CLEARLY OUT OF THE QUESTION THAT THE FUNDING PROBLEM COULD BE RESOLVED BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER AS HE HOPED. I LATER ASKED HIS CHIEF OF STAFF FOR AN ESTIMATE OF THE LATEST DATE BY WHICH SUCH A DECISION COULD BE MADE AND STILL MAKE POSSIBLE THE STATIONING OF THE BRIGADE IN NORTHAG BY AUGUST OF 1976. HE WAS SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO ANSWER, BUT FINALLY CONCEDED THAT IT MIGHT STILL BE POSSIBLE IF THE DECISIONS WERE MADE BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR.

7. THIS COULD BECOME STICKY IF IT CONTINUES TO BE HANDLED IN SHAPE AND USAREUR WITHOUT ANY POLITICAL COORDINATION BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE FRG. SOME EARLY WASHINGTON DECISIONS ARE REQUIRED ON THE BASIS OF WHICH SERIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GERMANS COULD BEGIN HERE

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AND AT NATO. OTHERWISE WE WILL HAVE A MILITARY STATIONING PLAN WITHOUT THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
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